

FIREFLY REVIEWS

COLEOPTERORUM CATALOGUS SUPPLEMENTA. PARS 9 (EDITIO SECUNDA).
LAMPYRIDAE. By. F. A. McDermott, 149 pp., 1966. Dr. W. Junk, Publishers, The Hague, Netherlands. (Price US \$ 14.55)

Just how much was this new edition of the lampyrid catalogue needed? Ernest Olivier's first edition appeared in 1910 and McDermott's second edition cut-off date was the end of 1964. The first contained 1097 species and the second 1891 species. Thus, an astounding 42 percent of the presently known species were described in the last 55 years. The number of genera increased from 53 to 85, with 37 percent being described in 55 years. Add to those increases the many changes of status, combination, and nomenclature and anyone can see a definite need for a new list.

The catalogue follows the latest classifications. The genera are arranged in subfamilies, tribes, and subtribes. One subfamily, the Rhagophthalminae, is considered by some students to constitute a separate family. The drilids are not included; some workers would have made them a subfamily. A few new names necessitated by homonymies are proposed, and a few new combinations are introduced. Only three subspecies are recorded; that might be a record low for a beetle family of this size. The long list of references to biologies given in the first edition has been omitted, but many such references have been included under the individual species. It would seem that the lampyrids have gone the way of other experimental insects in that taxonomists can no longer be expected to include all references; so, references to luminosity and the structure of the luminous organs have been largely omitted.

This catalogue is up to the consistently high standards of previous Junk catalogues. Certainly Junk deserves much praise. So does Mr. McDermott; he worked very hard on this piece and did a fine job. But he is not here to read any words of just praise. He died on the day he received his copy of Pars 9. Not many men are so fortunate as to end a career with a magnum opus.

-- T. J. Spilman, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

STUDIES ON THE FLASH COMMUNICATION SYSTEM IN PHOTINUS FIREFLIES.

By James E. Lloyd, 95 pp., 1966. Misc. Publ. Mus. Zool. Univ. Michigan, no. 130.

The remarkable and unique phenomenon of flash communication among fireflies was partially worked out by H. S. Barber, to the disbelief of many of his colleagues of that day. Lloyd and John Buck both have shown Barber to be absolutely correct and each has gone on to quantify this work.

No student of biology can consider himself educated until he is familiar with Lloyd's recent work. This is as fascinating and as basic as Von Frisch's studies on bee communication. (One of the most enjoyable evenings I have spent in the field was with Lloyd last March when I saw him demonstrate firefly communication and aggressive mimicry.)

This publication contains the results of several seasons work involving about 25 species of Photinus. Students of this group will want to study these data in